

Mr. Chairman, when I spoke during general debate on this bill, I mentioned that my only reservation about this legislation concerns section 1006 relating to budgeting for operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This provision, which prohibits the use of funds authorized by this legislation for the conduct of combat or peacekeeping operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is too restrictive and can result in funds being cut off while our troops are in the field. I agree with the necessity to fund our operations in the Balkans with supplemental appropriations and I have so stated. However, if the bill's provisions are left in place, we could have a situation where the funds from one supplemental run out before another is enacted. In that case, the section in question would prevent the use of these Department of Defense funds authorized by this bill to support our troops in the region whether in combat or peacekeeping. Moreover, if this language remains in the authorization bill, this otherwise excellent legislation that we have will be subject to a presidential veto.

The amendment which I offer will delete subsection (a) of section 1006 while leaving in place subsection (b) which requires the President to request supplemental appropriations in order to conduct combat or peacekeeping operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Subsection (b), standing alone, adequately protects the funding authorized in this bill without running the risk of undermining America's and NATO's military peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo.

Mr. Chairman, 2 weeks ago when we were first scheduled to take this bill up on the floor, I would have argued that the language in the bill sent the wrong message at the wrong time. Now with the withdrawal of Serbian forces from Kosovo scheduled to begin today, the message we would send by rejecting my amendment and the timing of that message would be even worse. Specifically, retaining that harmful section would send a signal to U.S. and allied military personnel in the region that their superb performance to date may be cut off at a fiscally-driven date having nothing to do with operational or diplomatic considerations.

It would send a signal of uncertainty to our NATO allies at a time when American leadership on the ground, in the air and in various diplomatic venues is carrying Operation Allied Force and related efforts forward.

It would send a signal to Kosovar refugees depending on America and NATO that the Alliances's commitment to returning them safely to their homes is wavering.

It would send a signal to President Milosevic that he need only hold on or stall for a few more months before funding for American participation in the NATO air campaign or peacekeeping mission is accomplished.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very, very serious issue. It relates not only to

Kosovo, it relates not only to Yugoslavia, it relates to the leadership of this bastion of freedom, of America, in this world.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, let me respond briefly to my friend from Missouri with respect to depriving us of what he calls victory in this war.

The war that I am concerned about, Mr. Chairman, is the next war, and I am concerned about the stocks of ammunition that are now very low. I am also concerned about those young men and women who have served us so well in the air war that has taken place over the last 78 days or so. The best way we can serve those men and women in uniform is to see to it that we get a large number of them off food stamps. I am talking about the 10,000 military families that currently are on food stamps.

Another way we can serve them is to see to it that we have the spare parts to get our mission capability rates up above 70 percent and to get that crash rate which last year was 55 aircraft crashing resulting in 55 deaths during peacetime operations down to a lower level, if not an acceptable level. All of that is going to take money.

Mr. Chairman, this war will be a disaster if we pay for it out of the moneys that would have gone to increase our munitions back to the two-war requirement, that would have gone to raise the pay of our military people up to the level where they can make more than the food stamp rate, if the money is taken out of the spare parts coffers where it has been taken in the past to leave 40 percent of our aircraft grounded because they are not mission capable.

I just say to my friend from Missouri, let us not pull money out of operations in this new euphoria that he thinks we should be engaged in, out of operations and out of the spare parts supplies and out of the ammunition coffers and out of the personnel benefit coffers. Otherwise, the next war will be a disaster for us. I hope that he will work with me to see to it that money is not taken out of the defense budget for Kosovo.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, we won the war. Now we must win the peace. We led NATO into that war in order for us to end the atrocities over in Kosovo and now we must be part of NATO to ensure that peace is there and that it will stick. Not only do the Republican amendments today undermine our efforts in Kosovo but the underlining provisions of this bill without the Skelton amendment make it nearly impossible to effectively implement the peace agreement because it cuts off the funds on September 30. Every major newspaper

in the world has a peace agreement on the front page of every major newspaper. Why can our friends on the Republican side not read what is on the front page of every major newspaper in the world and declare that we have peace and we have the responsibility to be part of making sure that peace works.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER).

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Chairman, I do commend our young men and women in the military for this peace that we hope has been achieved today because it is due to their great efforts that we have this opportunity for peace.

Mr. Chairman, I do not often disagree with the gentleman from Missouri, he is a Member of this House for whom I have the highest regard and affection, but on this particular issue, I think he is wrong. Just this last weekend, General Shelton, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated that even with the peace agreement, the NATO operation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is no longer one of peacekeeping but of peace enforcement. We are clearly going to be placing U.S. forces in a hostile environment.

On one side of our forces, we will have the Serbs who we have been bombing for the last 2½ months. On the other side we will have the Kosovo Liberation Army which will be frustrated by the failure of the peace agreement to require a referendum as the Rambouillet accord would have done on independence. NATO forces will be defending Belgrade sovereignty over Kosovo, a position which is directly at odds with the KLA's paramount goal of independence. Moreover, while all the details of the peace agreement are not clear, it appears that the Russian element will approximate 10,000 troops compared to America's 7,000. Their line of command remains undetermined.

Over the last 2½ months, the United States has provided the lion's share of the effort in the air campaign. The latest figures indicate that the United States has had 723 aircraft involved versus 257 provided by the European states of NATO. The ratio of U.S. to European aircraft is almost 3 to 1. Yet the European states of NATO combined have more than twice as many active duty troops than we do, and their combined gross domestic product of \$8.1 trillion is actually slightly more than our own GDP of \$8.08 trillion.

The gentleman from Missouri would delete the provision in this bill that adds teeth to it, that the President may not spend money in fiscal year 2000 authorized by this bill for our military for operations in Kosovo but rather must submit a request for supplemental funding to meet any cost associated with the Kosovo mission.